

Coins

It's convention time, on with the show

By Roger Boye

FOR THE FIRST time in four years, the state's top annual coin show — the Illinois Numismatic Association convention — will be in the Chicago area.

About 150 dealers from several states will be on hand at the Arlington Park Hilton from Sept. 9 through Sept. 11 to buy and sell coins and paper money. In addition, coins will be on exhibit and an educational forum will take place in the hotel at 3400 W. Euclid Av. in Arlington Heights, next to the Arlington Park Race Track.

The just-elected president of the American Numismatic Association, Grover C. Criswell, will speak at a banquet Sept. 10, and Jess Peters of Decatur will conduct a three-part auction, with sessions beginning at 1 and 7 p.m. Sept. 9

and 1 p.m. Sept. 10.

The Northwest Suburban Coin Club is organizing the convention. Club president William Litwick is also chairman of the convention.

LONGTIME CHICAGO COIN dealer William Pettit has joined the cataloging staff of Krause Publications Inc., Iola, Wis.

Pettit, a frequent speaker at meetings of Chicago-area coin clubs, has been head of the foreign department of the Rare Coin Co. of America in Chicago for 15 years. He's also a past president of the Chicago and Aurora coin clubs.

In his new job, Pettit will work on Krause Publications' massive world coin and world paper money catalogs.

THE U.S. MINT SOLD only 3.2 million 1977 proof sets, a drop of about 900,000 sets from the 1976 total.

That's probably because of a \$2 increase in the price this year (the 1977 set cost \$9). Also, the 1976 total may have been unusually high because of the Bicentennial (some 2.9 million sets were sold in 1975).

It's no longer possible to order 1977 sets from the mint.

CUBA HAS begun producing coins from its own mint in Havana.

This year, the mint will make coins to be sold to collectors through a Spanish company and in 1978 the mint will start producing coins for general circulation.

At present, Cuban coins are minted in other countries.